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Director

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Conservation Pledge

I GIVE MY PLEDGE
AS AN AMERICAN
TO SAVE AND FAITHFULLY TO
DEFEND FROM WASTE
THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF
MY COUNTRY — ITS SOIL
AND MINERALS, ITS
FORESTS, WATERS,
AND WILDLIFE

DEPARTMENT OF WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES
DIVISION OF EDUCATION & PUBLICITY

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Louisiana Conservationist is always interested in pictures of game
and fish catches, unusual hunting and fishing scenes, bird dogs
and in group pictures of hunting and fishing organizations.

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COVER

In the winter a fisherman's fancy
lightly turns to thoughts of spring. It
won't be long now.

By L. D. YOUNG, JR.

Director

Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission

Too little emphasis has been placed on the commercial seafood industry; there must be a balancing of the scales which can only come through the education of the general public, from Cameron to Oak Grove, from New Orleans to Rodessa, and we must join hands with our coastal neighbors who have rich natural resources much likened to ours.

This is merely one neglected industry which will be included in the broad educational program for youths and adults of this state. Before we can go into the study of foreign lands, their history and culture, we must first study what we have at home, from a monetary and a progressive viewpoint. There is much to be done . . . more to be accomplished in the future.

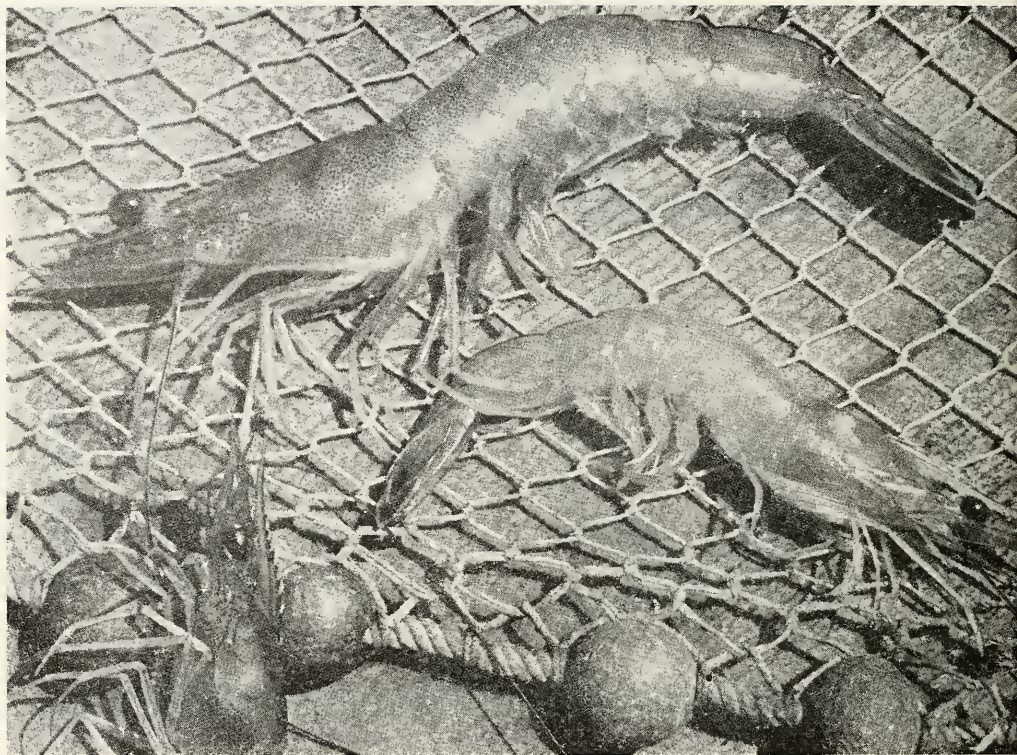
Only a short period has elapsed since the commission form of administration took over the reins of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries and it is with brighter eyes that we look toward the future. Our modest accomplishments have come through the cooperation of the people who believed, as they approved Amendment Nine last November, that we face a new era.

Satisfaction should be expressed . . . saying that the workings of the commission have been accomplished through careful selection of competent, qualified and interested individuals and groups who are held directly responsible for the overall program. The gratitude, if any is expressly sought, should go to the alert enforcement division which has been almost fully reorganized, revamped and placed into a working order, all phases of which are closely supervised.

While convictions have been numerous, we sincerely hope that, in the approaching future, only the habitual law-breakers will be found on the arrest report. The general public knows that the arrest record will never be void of all the residents of Louisiana and our visitors, but we pray that violations will be kept to a bare minimum in all areas . . . on land and water.

As this is being written, rangers are completing an indoctrination course on the campus of Louisiana State University which will go far toward the success of the commission's overall setup.

The struggle has just begun, but the few milestones we have passed lie behind for close scrutiny by the people; the road ahead may be beset with pitfalls, but the willingness to try, the eagerness to win and the well wishes of the majority are enough weapons to see us through.



Observations on the Life History and Habits of the Lake Shrimp

by

PERCY VIOSCA, JR.

Commercial Seafoods Division

(Editor's Note: This paper was read by Mr. Viosca, widely known New Orleans biologist, before the New Orleans Academy of Sciences on December 16, 1919. The data contained therein was later included in reports of the Department of Conservation, under whose auspices the work was done. Because of its historical significance in connection with the subsequent development of a great Louisiana seafood industry, this paper is published in its entirety. Footnotes were written by the author in January, 1953. We feel that the material contained in this paper will be of widespread interest to all persons connected with the commercial seafoods industry, to the sportsmen who is interested in *cl shrimp* gumbo style, as well as to the serious student of aquatic life.)

When we consider that throughout the greater area of the United States, shrimp are practically unknown except for a few fresh water forms about an inch in length, and that the most common shrimp of the Atlantic coast is only two inches, we, of Louisiana, can appreciate the blessings nature has bestowed upon us in the form of the large edible "creole" or "lake shrimp" and its smaller but highly esteemed cousin, the Mississippi River shrimp.

That we may better understand some of the facts brought out in this paper, I will give a brief review of the scientific classification of shrimp. All shrimp and their relatives are classed by zoologists as belonging to that large subdivision or phylum of the animal kingdom known as the ARTHROPODA, the members of which are recognized by their external shell or skeleton, their paired, jointed appendages, and the segmented plan of their body structure. If we call to mind a few of the ARTHROPODA, such as the crawfish, grasshopper and centipede, we see that in each case there is no internal skeleton, the soft body being supported only by the toughness or hardness of the outer shell. This shell or external skeleton covers the entire body, being present even in the joints. Here, however, it is usually thin and flexible, permitting the freedom of movement necessary for walking, swimming, flying, or other life functions of the particular species.

This body plan, strictly adhered to by the various members of the ARTHROPODA, permits infinitesimal diversification. I need but to mention a few animals of the group in order to give an idea of how different various members of the ARTHROPODA can be: Butterflies, beetles, grasshoppers and dragon-flies; ticks, spiders, scorpions and centipedes; microscopic water-fleas and the giant crab of

Japan are all members of the same phylum, ARTHROPODA. As any scientific classification of such a large and diversified group must need be complicated, I will mention only those features which lead us to a better understanding of the creatures which concern this discussion.

Although shrimps agree with the insects and other members of the ARTHROPODA in their general plan of body structure, they differ from them in many respects. Consequently they are placed in a separate class, the CRUSTACEAE, which includes only their nearer relatives such as the lobsters, crawfishes, crabs, hermit crabs, barnacles and water fleas.

Shrimps are further placed with the crabs, lobsters and crawfishes in an order known to systematic zoologists as the DECAPODA, so named from the fact that they possess 10 so-called walking legs. All other shrimp appendages are so modified as to be unfit for this function. This must not be construed as meaning that the walking legs cannot serve other functions as well, as any one who has ever been bitten by a crab can testify. Those legs, which are not purely ambulatory in function are "chelate," having pincer-like tips which are used in gathering food and for offensive and defensive purposes.

The shrimps and their allies are distinguished from the crabs by their possession of a large abdomen which ends in a powerful tail fan, the whole apparatus being locomotory in function. In the crabs, on the other hand, the abdomen is degenerate, swimming being accomplished in many species by a modification of the last pair of walking legs into veritable paddles.

All existing species of true shrimps belong to either one of two tribes. One is known as the CARIDAE, to which belong all our fresh water shrimps as well as a large number of our brackish water and marine species. These shrimps are characterized by the possession of two pairs of chelate (pincer) legs and a sharp bend in the abdomen. In this tribe, the eggs are attached to the little swimmers under the abdomen until they are hatched. After

hatching, the young of these shrimps look practically like the adults, all early stages being passed within the egg.

Of the species of CARIDAE which occur in Louisiana waters, only one abundant kind is large enough to be consumed as human food. This is the so-called "river shrimp", *Bithynis ohionis*, a rather stout species, but seldom over three inches long. This species inhabits the Mississippi, Atchafalaya, and other fresh water streams and lakes of Louisiana. It is usually taken by means of baited traps, sometimes a hundred or more being caught in each trap under favorable conditions. The supply of river shrimp, being rather limited, is usually consumed by local markets in regions in which it occurs. It is considered a great delicacy.

Other egg-carrying shrimps found in Louisiana are mostly small species, but none the less of great economic importance. They are ideal food for the young of fresh and salt water fishes, thus relieving a considerable proportion of the pressure upon the commercial species. They are all efficient scavengers and thus play important roles in the economies of nature.

The majority of commercial shrimps belong to that other great shrimp tribe known as the PENAEIDAE. This group is distinguished by the possession of two pairs of chelate (pincer) legs, and by the absence of a sharp bend in the abdomen. The eggs in this group are not carried under the abdomen, but are set free in the water and allowed to shift for themselves. Upon hatching, these young are in a very immature, or larval condition, which does not remotely resemble the adult form. These larvae pass through a remarkable and complicated series of transformations before they look like shrimp.

This shrimp transformation is the most complete metamorphosis found in any of the CRUSTACEAE. The hatched larva is known as a "nauplius," a form structurally and physiologically no higher than the simplest waterflea, the lowest existing crustacean. By the orderly development of segments, the nauplius eventually assumes a



Photo by Gresham

Shrimp boats! Fleets such as this one brings graphically to mind the great seafood industry—hard working fishermen, the humming and bustling processing plants, and shrimp creole.

more complicated form known as the "protozoa". This form also possesses two pairs of mouth parts. In the third group of transformations, known as the "mysis," there is considerable development of the "walking legs," which at first are used for swimming. Before the mysis stage is completed, the swimmerets and tail fan are developed. In the last larval stages, the true larval characters disappear, the walking legs become fully developed, and the creature can settle down to a bottom existence.

Although it is not generally known, three species of PENAIDEAE are found in commercial quantities in Louisiana waters. All are salt water species. Their latin names are *Xiphopenaeus kroyeri*, the seabob; *Penaeus braziliensis*, the grooved shrimp¹; and *Penaeus setiferus*, the lake shrimp.

The seabob is a small slender shrimp with adults averaging three and a half inches. It can be recognized by its long antennae, popularly called "whiskers," which are about three times the length of the animal, and by its long, recurved rostrum (snout) which bears six small spines on its upper edge. The seabob appears to pass its entire life in the Gulf, and seldom, if ever, enters inside waters. When the sea is rough, seabobs are found some distance off shore, but when calm they come in to the very beach itself. They can become a veritable pest, as sometimes 50 to 90 per cent of the catch by weight may consist entirely of this small species, which depreciates the market value considerably. When lake shrimp are abundant and the platforms loaded to capacity, seabobs may be refused and thousand of pounds thrown overboard. Because of their small size, they are seldom marketed in the fresh state, and canning factories find it unprofitable to use them. Yet, if one takes the trouble, as they do with river shrimp, they are a fine dish of extremely delicate flavor.

The Brazilian shrimp² is a large species closely resembling the lake shrimp, with which it is sometimes associated. The antennae, however, are comparatively short, being less than twice the length of the animal, whereas in the lake shrimp, they are over twice the entire length. *Penaeus braziliensis* is of a more greenish or brownish color whereas *Penaeus setiferus* has a clearer or more whitish "complexion."

Penaeus braziliensis is not yet recognized by the fishermen as a distinct kind of shrimp, and the small per cent taken is marketed with the ordinary lake shrimp. The young make their appearance earlier in the year, however, and in the month of June, when young lake shrimp have not yet reached commercial sizes, catches of this species unmixed with any of the others are quite common. They are not as abundant as

either the seabob or the lake shrimp, and almost negligible as a commercial proposition.³

Penaeus setiferus, known throughout the country as the "southern prawn," is usually known in Louisiana as the "lake shrimp." The local name is derived from the fact that at certain seasons they are abundant in our so-called brackish water lakes. The name, "lake shrimp," is now misleading because it cannot be applied to adults of the species which are confined solely to the waters of the Gulf. Specimens found in inside waters are immature.

Considering shrimp of commercial sizes irrespective of degree of development, we might say that their habitat consists of all salt and brackish waters of our state. They range into some of our nearly fresh water coastal lakes where biological conditions in summer are suited to their growth. Indications are that they may be abundant far out from shore in unexplored regions of the Gulf.

These shrimp are the chief and most efficient scavengers of the open areas of our lake and sea bottoms. In their search for food they are constantly moving about from place to place picking up available particles of plant and animal matter and thrusting it into their mouths. In the sea their food consists of the debris and remains of marine life as well as that washed out from the rivers and passes: hydroids, bryozoa, worms, crustaceans, grasses and sea-weeds. In the bays and lakes surrounded by salt marshes, their food is composed largely of small pieces of roots, stems and leaves of salt marsh grasses which are constantly washed into the water by the waves and receding tides. As long as our salt marshes exist there is little danger of their food supply running short. IN THIS ROLE OUR SALT MARSHES ARE A VALUABLE ASSET TO THE STATE.

Most species of shrimps are more or less transparent. The individuals seem to blend into their surroundings so that in their natural environments they are hardly discernible. Some species resemble the grass, seaweed, or other vegetation, coral or hydroids with which they are associated. The so-called "lake-shrimp" seems to be an exception to this rule. As their travels take them through waters of various hues and over bottoms of various kinds, mostly those bare of living vegetation, nature has protected this important species by endowing it with the power to imitate the colors of the bottoms as well as the various transparencies of the waters in which it lives. In inside waters, their colors are usually dull, often reddish or brownish to imitate the muddy bottoms and the water coming down from the bayous. In clear waters they are practically transparent, while in dirty

waters they are almost opaque. In the open sea, their colors are brilliant and resemble the iridescent hues of these regions.

Individual shrimp possess remarkable chameleon-like powers, changing rapidly from one color to another. They are able to do this because of an arrangement of red, blue and yellow pigment cells combined in mixed groups in their skin under the outer shell. These pigment cells expand or contract under varying external influences, sending out branches of their characteristic primary colors. This enables the animal to assume an almost infinite variety of color changes to imitate any surroundings, or to be at home in any blend of the sea and brackish water. This is to some extent irrespective of the size of the shrimp, as specimens of the same average size found in different localities exhibit colors corresponding to the particular location.

It seems probable, however, that shrimp that live in the sea have a permanent modification of their pigment groups which enables them to assume more brilliant colors. Because we live in a different environment, it may be difficult for us to appreciate the importance of many of the variations of color assumed by a shrimp, but these must have considerable survival value in the struggle for existence against enemies in its own sphere.

Penaeus setiferus is a migratory species, but its sometimes erratic movements are difficult to follow. Observations seem to show that they usually travel slowly along the bottom, feeding meanwhile as they crawl along by means of their walking legs aided by the swimmerets. More rapid forward movement is accomplished by the swimmerets alone, while still a third movement, to escape enemies, is brought about by a violent snapping of the tail which propels them rapidly backward in a series of jerks.

During calm weather, shrimp often accumulate in large schools, especially in places where food is abundant. When found in great numbers, the water is muddied by them as they feed.

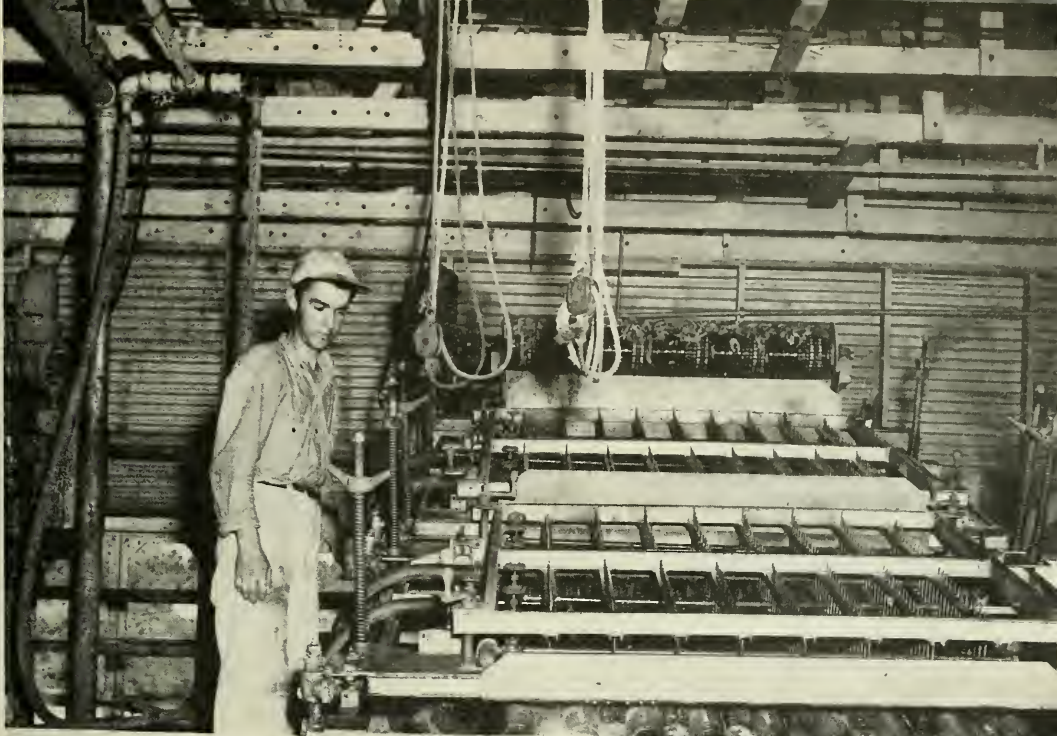
During rough and unsettled weather, the schools break up and the individuals often scatter over large areas. They seem to travel against the wind, though no doubt in the direction of the undertow, as they seek deeper waters where the disturbance is less. When schools of shrimp are caught in currents caused by tides, wind or rainfall, they travel in the direction of these currents. This seems to be the stimulus for more rapid migrations of large bodies of shrimp.

Perhaps the secret of their movements lies in the changing salinity of the water. Any particular school seems to remain by preference in water of a given salinity and they do not like sudden changes. Their migrations into water of a different density is comparatively slow. Nevertheless, with very young shrimp there is a gradual migration inland, or to water of lesser

¹ It is now known that two species of grooved shrimp are found off the Louisiana coast. What was formerly thought to be *P. braziliensis* is now known to be *P. aztecus*, the brown shrimp. The other is the recently described pink-spotted shrimp of deeper color, named *Penaeus duorarum* (Ball, Bingham Oc. Coll., 1939) by a former New Orleans biologist, Martin D. Burkenroad.

² Now known as the brown shrimp, or simply brownies.

³ In recent years, as trawling operations expanded, both species of grooved shrimp, but especially *aztecus*, the brownies, have been increasingly evident in the commercial shrimp fishery.



Mechanical shrimp peelers, such as this one in a Houma canning factory, are revolutionizing the shrimp industry by

cutting down labor costs. It will peel 210 pounds of green shrimp per hour.

(Mark Bonner photo)

salinity, and as they approach maturity there is a second gradual migration, this time back to sea.

Although the breeding season varies with individual shrimp, activity as a whole extends over most of the spring and summer months. This more or less extended breeding period is sufficient to account for specimens of all sizes being found over a considerable portion of the year. There is no doubt that spawning activity in Louisiana is confined entirely to the waters of the Gulf.

In spite of the myriads of eggs laid, the large majority of shrimp no doubt perish in the larval stages before they reach inside waters. By the time they are an inch long, their remarkable schooling instincts are well developed and great schools accumulate along the shores of lakes, bays and bayous, and especially in shallow lagoons near the coast. Here they feed upon the ooze which lies upon alluvial bottoms bare of rooted vegetation.

Young shrimp grow rapidly. The average growth during the summer seems to be about an inch per month, with a maximum at about one and a half inches. As the smallest adult shrimp is six inches in length, it would take not over six months for a

shrimp to grow to maturity during the summer season.

Young shrimp found in shallow waters near the coast in early summer spread inland over all bottoms suited to their development. By the end of September they may be 50 miles or more from the sea and in practically fresh water. All this time they have been growing, and as they do, they seek the deeper waters of the lakes in which they reside, being replaced in shallow water by successive broods of younger specimens.

By the end of September, a new migration gets underway, this time back to the sea. Only maturing shrimp take part in this return migration, whereas successive broods of small shrimp are still continuing to make their way inland as long as conditions there remain favorable. Shrimp, however, are greatly affected by weather conditions and changing currents, and the general fall migration is often obscured by complications.

During the colder months, conditions in inside waters are changed considerably, and the late broods cannot advance as far inland. Perhaps this is partly due to the cold and partly because of decreasing salinity which changes the biological conditions in

the inside waters. Even near the coast, where many young shrimp overwinter in the more saline inside waters, growth comes to a virtual standstill during the midwinter months.

The cold weather also seems to effect the adult shrimp in outside waters. From the first cold spell in the early fall until about the first of April, there appears to be a period when no eggs are laid and no successive broods of young make their appearance in inside waters.

By the end of November it is difficult to find shrimp anywhere under two inches in length. This condition exists until the end of February when the smallest shrimp obtainable are about two and one-half inches.

By watching the growth of these minimum sized specimens during the spring months, we can arrive at another estimate of the approximate rate of growth. This is somewhat less than the figure arrived at for the maximum summer rate of growth. By the middle of May, the smallest shrimp of this so-called spring crop reaches five inches in length and a new brood hatched in early spring and now averaging less than two inches in length has made its appearance in shallow inside waters.

Concluded on page 18



A. A. SIKES

The Commission's new purchasing agent, A. A. Sikes, hails from Erwinville, but is a native of Pointe Coupee Parish. He went to school in Opelousas, and for the past thirty years worked as track foreman with the Missouri Pacific Railway company and in the electrical business. During fifteen of these years he also operated his own business. Albert, who took over the position of purchasing agent December 11, 1952, spends his spare time fishing for bass.



CHARLES D. PHILLIPS, JR.

Charles D. Phillips, Jr., education-publicist, who will work principally with junior wildlife groups, 4-H clubs, schools and scouting organizations, is a graduate of Louisiana State University where he received his B. S. and M. A. degrees. Phillips, army veteran of 32 months, formerly taught school in Port Allen.



Accept Key Co

Ted O'Neil, Abbeville, has been named Chief of the Fur & Refuge Division of the Commission. This Louisiana native, who has completed most of his graduate work toward a Phd from L. S. U., is an experienced biologist. He has done research on fur-bearing animals for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Delta National Wildlife Refuge, for the Texas Game, Fish & Oyster Commission along the Texas coast, and for the Louisiana Department of Wild Life & Fisheries. He also worked for the U. S. Farm Security Administration in rehabilitating the trappers of St. Bernard and Plaquemine parishes. He is the author of "MUSKRATS ON TEXAS COASTS, MANAGEMENT SIGNIFICANCE OF DAMAGE BY GEESE AND MUSKRATS TO COASTAL MARSHES" and the "MUSKRAT IN THE LOUISIANA COASTAL MARSHES." Ted also has experience as a trapper, fur buyer, marsh land operator, operator of a shrimp fleet, and as private consultant biologist on marsh management.



TED O'NEIL



JOHN BLANCHARD

John Blanchard, Chief of the Education and Publicity Division of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, formerly served as managing editor of The Franklin Sun in Winnsboro. He is a graduate of the L. S. U. School of Journalism and a Navy veteran. The north Louisiana native has been active in conservation since boyhood, chartering the Franklin chapter of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, of which he is a director.



Robert L. Eddy, Commercial Seafoods Division chief, who is a native of New Orleans, is primarily concerned with "the conservation of marine resources and promotion of the seafoods industry in the interest of the public welfare." Eddy, a former Tulane student, spent nine years with the U. S. Navy as a line officer, two years in the oyster production business, one year shrimp trawling, four years on "inside waters" fishing, a year crab fishing, served as a salesman and a short time as a contractor. For the past four years he has been associated with real estate investments.



ROBERT L. EDDY



Commission Posts



CLAUDE H. GRESHAM, JR.

Claude H. Gresham, Jr., new editor of the LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST, comes to the Commission after an absence from the Louisiana scene of some two and one-half years. During that time he served as Refuge Manager of the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge and as chief of the information-education division of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. His formal schooling consists of a B. S. in forestry and a master's degree in game management from Louisiana State University. He says that his greatest mistake was in "ever leaving Louisiana"—that there's "no better fishing anywhere."

"The deer probably didn't bite good last night, the barometer was falling. You know, they're a lot like fish; they don't bite good on a weather change."

These were the words of C. J. Perkins, project leader for a deer trapping expedition in Madison parish this month. He works in game management under the Pittman-Robertson act.

Deer won't bite when the barometer is falling? What's fish got to do with deer or a barometer? Could this guy Perkins be off his rocker? Maybe he had been studying too much game management. These questions were answered after four hours with the deer trapping crew so ably handled by the game expert and aided by four others who were in the know concerning the trapping of deer from a heavily concentrated area in Madison parish.

A deer is a wily animal, easily frightened by the sight or scent of man, but in a lot of ways he's foolish. His education at the adult stage doesn't compare with the trapper, who uses every device known to lure the bucks and does into a portable trap which measures three feet wide, four feet high and eight feet long.

These traps are set, without the trigger device, for two, three or more days. Ample feed, soybeans in most instances, must be sprinkled in and around the trap area in order that deer become familiar with the taste of beans and the sight of the trap. Next the traps are baited with set triggers in hopes that the deer will touch the small wire which trips the door and imprisons the animal.

Once the deer, buck or doe, is placed in solitary, he becomes accustomed to his cage and usually lies down to await . . . his fate or liberation. Upon sight of man, the caged animal makes a vain attempt to knock in the sides of the trap. Big bucks are no worse

DEER TRAPPING - TRANSPLANTING CONTINUES

by

JOHN BLANCHARD, Chief
Division of Education and Publicity

Commission Photos by Schafer



"STAND BACK, BUDDY. THIS IS MY COMING OUT PARTY."

than does, yearlings or fawns. Each, when captured, goes almost into a frenzy with eyes rolled as in death, usually snorting in defiance of their enemy—man.

Thirty-one deer were captured from this 18,000-acre area—nine bucks and 22 does (one of the bucks was caught twice)—during the period of January 10-14. January 13 was an especially good "biting day" with a catch of 14 reported from only 28 traps.

Ten of the January 13 catch were does and four were small bucks. All bucks from the area are liberated and 21 of the deer were sent to Union parish where the deer hunting season has been closed for a five-year period (closed each year by the police jury with the consent and approval of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission).

When the trapping is completed by Perkins' crew and another crew headed by R. P. Vernon, 100 does will have been taken from the area for restocking purposes, thereby saving the state approximately \$150 per deer. Estimated cost of trapping is \$35 per deer while the cost of a deer delivered from Wisconsin reaches \$150, \$125 at the designated place in the northern state.

Aiding the project leader were C. E. Harrison, assistant project leader and refuge

supervisor of Alexandria; H. C. Beasley, refuge manager, Red Dirt Game Preserve, Natchitoches; Welch Lively, refuge manager, Caldwell parish game management area, and M. W. Bedgood, Goldonna.

Beginner's luck was the story of the visit to the first trap. A doe, estimated at 160 pounds, was imprisoned in the structure. The small plywood crate was placed at the end of the trap door with the plexi-glass end away from the trap. The doe, seeing a possible means of escape, dashed madly against the transparent glass.

She must be tagged while still in the crate. Perkins reached into the crate to "grab anything available" and came out with a leg, pulling with much force. He put a hammerlock on the doe's neck while an assistant slipped a tag onto the frenzied animal's ear. She was transferred to the caged area of a pickup truck in a similar manner to that used of taking the deer from the trap to the crate. There she lay quietly, as if content on the hay-bedded bottom of the truck.

After several "misses," a young knotty headed buck was sighted in a trap. Following about 15 minutes of coaxing, he tried to smash the crate into splinters, only to have his ears pulled. A bright aluminum tag adorned his ear, signifying that he had

been trapped before. "He's a show-off," Perkins said. "Wants to get his picture taken or likes to be caught and liberated."

After a transfer into the crate, he was freed, for the benefit of the photographer and onlookers. The onlookers, mostly, were land-owners, J. W. McLemore and two sons, J. W., Jr., and Quinten of Winnsboro, who own a large tract of land almost "infested with deer."

The chief reason for the over abundant supply of deer is feed . . . and protection. The McLemores planted 80 acres of corn and beans to be left for deer feed, not to be harvested. Their cost last year exceeded \$3,000 for deer feed alone, not counting the amount which might have been realized had the cover crops been harvested; all this taken into consideration, they contribute thousands of dollars toward the upkeep of the sporting animals.

Back to the little buck. He scampered out of the crate and stopped as one of the trappers whistled. He tossed his head, put up his white flag and nonchalantly hopped into a nearby thicket, apparently saying, "I got away again."

Two other deer, both does, were taken during the morning period and each trap, whether thrown or not, was secured and



Here is shown one of the traps, ready for visitors. Note the fence which keeps cattle from eating the bait and tripping the trap doors, but which presents no obstacle to the deer.



Carrol Perkins examines the soybeans being used as bait in this trap.



baited "to get the deer used to the surroundings and feed." Perkins pointed out that deer which know the taste of soybeans are more easily trapped than deer which have never seen nor tasted the apparently delicious food, also used as a winter cover crop.

After a tour of the area, including the McLemore track, the B. G. Hammond property (3,272 acres), the Hall Allen land and a glimpse at Oceola plantation in Tensas parish, the trapping ended, in typical style—a bull session at the Foster Hunting camp.

In the 18,000-acre deer trapping area, probably the most concentrated tract in the south, there are eight does to every one buck. According to the project director, the ideal arrangement for breeding purposes would be five does and one buck; hence the need for removing the does from the area.

A total of 61 does have been trapped in this area thus far. Of these, 21 were released in Union Parish, 22 in Red River



The transfer crate has a transparent plexiglass end, and trapped deer readily move into it from the trap.



➡

The deer are ear-tagged for future identification.



Next step in the journey is from the transfer crate to the special bed on the pickup truck.

↓



Parish, and the remaining 18 in Caldwell Parish. In addition to these females, 18 bucks have been trapped and immediately released at the trapsite. Plans are to release future catches in Winn, Natchitoches, Vernon, Beauregard, Livingston, St. Helena, La Salle, Morehouse, and Ouachita parishes.

The Commission has been given permission to live trap deer from the following tracts and owners: Chicago Milling & Lumber Company, Ayer Timber Company, J. W. McLeMore, Allen & Patterson, W. L. Ethridge, B. G. Hammond, et al, Desha Lumber Co. and H. C. Massey. The owners of these areas are to be congratulated on their cooperation in this basic game restoration technique. It is through forward looking men like these, who realize the necessity of sound management practices, that the natural wildlife resources of Louisiana can be restored and maintained.



This doe will aid in bringing the sport of deer hunting to sections of Louisiana which have not known the cry of deer hounds in recent times.

➡



Summary of . . .

Louisiana Sport Fishing Regulations

Increased activity on the part of the Enforcement Division in the past month and a half has brought to light the fact that much confusion exists regarding the exact provisions of the laws regulating sport fishing in the state of Louisiana. We present here a **summary** of those regulations.

License Required:

Non-resident: All non-resident fishermen are required to have either the \$5.00 annual non-resident license or the \$2.00 7-day non-resident license.

Resident: If you are a resident of Louisiana over 15 years of age and under 60 years of age, and you fish with the aid or use of a reel, artificial bait, or spinner or spoon device, **YOU MUST HAVE A ONE DOLLAR RESIDENT FISHING LICENSE.** If you are 15 years old or younger you do not need a license. If you are over 60, and have been a resident of the state for two years, you may obtain a free fishing permit from any sheriff's office or from the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. Note that the above means that, if you are over 15 and under 60, you must have a license if you use an artificial lure of any type, **regardless of how you use it.** You must have a license if you use a reel of any type, whether you're using artificial lure or not.

Season: There is no state-wide closed season on sport fishing for any fish species.

Limits:

Fresh Water Species:

	Minimum Size Limit	Daily Creel Limit	Possession Limit
Black Bass (green trout).....	10 inches.....	15.....	30
Yellow Bass (striped bass).....	7 inches.....	25.....	50
White Bass (barfish).....	7 inches.....	25.....	50
Crappie (white perch, speckled perch, sac-a-lait).....	7 inches.....	25.....	50
Sunfish (perch, bream, goggle-eye, blue-gill, etc.).....	No size limit.....	50.....	100

Catfish over 14" in length and buffalo over 16" in length may be taken by sport fishermen for home consumption without regard to creel limits. A total of 25 catfish and buffalo (in the aggregate) under the above size limits may be taken each day by sport fishermen for home consumption.

Salt Water Species:

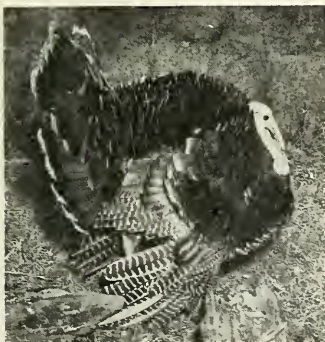
Speckled sea trout over 12" in length, redfish over 16" in length, and sheepshead over 10" in length may be taken by sport fishermen for home consumption without regard to creel limits. A total of 25 specimens of these (in the aggregate) under the above size limits may be taken by sport fishermen for home consumption.

Hard Shell Crabs.....	5" minimum width
Soft Shell Crabs.....	4½" minimum width
Diamond-back Terrapin	6" minimum length
No limits on other salt water species.	

**YOUR 1952 FISHING LICENSE EXPIRED ON DECEMBER 31.
GET YOUR 1953 LICENSE NOW.**

by
MARK H. BONNER, JR.

RED DIRT



About three dozen wild turkeys now roam the 40,000 acre Red Dirt Preserve.

Almost extinct creatures of fields and streams are returning in ever-increasing numbers . . . thanks to the work of a small group of dedicated men. Haphazard study and the political appointee is at last being left by the wayside. In spite of more hunters each year, the deer population, for example, is increasing year by year. Why?

The answer lies mostly in young men of the state and federal fish and wildlife departments, like Raymond Moody, wildlife biologist at the Red Dirt Game Management Preserve up in Natchitoches parish. This young man is not only armed with an ingrained love of the great outdoors, he is backed up with a Master's degree in wildlife management from the State University.

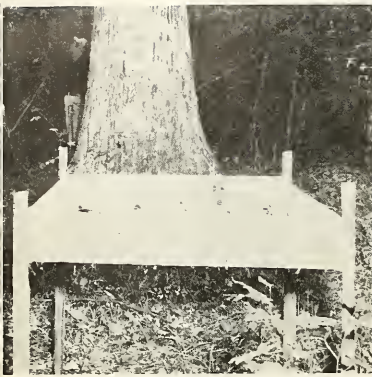
Skeptical

This commentator was, frankly, skeptical of such high-brow "game wardening" . . . that is the lay conception of any man who deals with wildlife conservation. There has been so much "game wardening" at the polls and from the shady porches of political appointees in Louisiana throughout the years that skepticism is the order of the day—and so has been the slaughter of game.

After spending a day on the Red Dirt preserve, that skepticism faded into enthusiasm. Here was a different breed of conservationist and game managers. Moody, for example, could walk off the preserve tomorrow and probably double his take-home pay. Then, why doesn't he, and other of the same idealistic stripe, do just that? A study of the man answers that question.

Sportsman in School

When Moody was discharged from the army after five years of service in World War II, he knew exactly what he wanted to do. He and his wife, Eleanor, set up



Acorn trap number 97, one of many. These are used to determine the mast production for each year.



Moody is setting the trigger on this deer trap, while Irby Knotts looks on. The trap has been baited with corn for several days.

camp in a crowded army-type hutment at LSU. The veteran enrolled in the wildlife and game management school. Moody's every mental and physical fibre loved the outdoors so much that he was willing to confine himself to dreary classrooms for four straight years, including summer semesters.

That was a tough assignment for an outdoor man. After their daughter came, the going was still tougher. Many would have stopped when they got that coveted B. S. degree. Moody stuck it out and walked away from the University with his Master's. He almost immediately went to work for the state fish and wildlife department under the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937.

Scientific Study

This Act was passed to further the cause of wildlife. The Federal tax on arms and ammunition was earmarked to support restoration work in the various states, the work to be done by the participating states under the coordination of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. On all approved projects each state dollar is matched with three from this P-R fund. Such a project was founded at Red Dirt, and Moody was put in charge of deer and turkey research.

Starting from scratch with 300 deer and no turkeys, the management area now has more than a 1,000 deer and 35 wild turkeys. Such a program can not be completed in a month or a year. Scientific research must be considered in terms of years.

Moody roamed the 40,000-acre tract day by day, month after month, making browse surveys along the hundreds of deer runs. Turkey were shipped in from the Pennsylvania hills and released. Quail, squirrel and others were trapped to determine their eating habits.

Served Again

The young wildlife scientist was making headway when the Korean struggle began. Just as he was snatched up with his National Guard unit before World War II, he was called suddenly back to service in 1951. The tedious surveys and statistical information were dropped all the time he was once more in Germany in the service of his country.

Discharged again this past August, he hardly hit Louisiana soil before he was back on his beloved Red Dirt. Trying to make up for lost time, the Natchitoches parish native is doubling his efforts to speed up the long-range program. Those 700 individual browse surveys must be run, his acorn drop plots counted, etc., while in the meantime he is called on to assist the department during the duck and deer season.

Wild Turkey

His work has already revealed one fact. Turkeys take more territory than ever imagined for support.

Keeping up with their feeding habits calls for great physical activity. The big birds think nothing of ranging 10 miles from their roost in a day. They average

covering a five mile radius most any day, walking every foot unless disturbed. A turkey will not fly unless he is forced to, Moody says.

More than a 100 of these birds have been released. While young, they are extremely liable to attack by fox and bobcats. Beasley and Moody carry on a constant battle against these animals. Both declare that they can fair far better with traps and snares than the conventional hunter can with guns and dogs.

Trapping Animals

Speaking of snares, Moody had three deer traps set on the day of the visit. He will capture a few to add to his fenced-in plot to make minute browse studies. The trap is baited with corn for a few days before the trigger is set. When the deer become accustomed to walking through the chute, a small wire is tightly drawn across the path. When the deer hits the wire, the trigger releases trap doors at each end of the chute. Moody says they seldom miss.

He also snares many types of birds, also rabbits, squirrels and wild hogs. Contents of craws and stomachs are studied to determine eating habits at a given time of the year. One state preserve recently called Moody in to ascertain why squirrels were mysteriously dying in the woods. He found that they were actually succumbing to starvation and over-population. The acorn crop had failed, and their supplemental diet of bugs, buds and worms wasn't enough to get them through the acorn shortage.

Riding over the huge preserve, which is located in the Kisatchie National Forest, on a maze of trails, Moody gets some idea of what his deer are doing by studying track formations. When he wants to make actual counts in a given area, he rubs out a mile or so of tracks on the dusty roads in the late evening. The next morning, he back-tracks and counts the new tracks.

Old Ideas Wrong

While Moody stresses that his studies are a very long-range affair with no conclusions formulated at the present, he has exploded some popular conceptions concerning deer and turkey. Contrary to popular opinion, deer will feed in the morning and late evening rather than at night, if unmolested.

He has also exploded the fable that deer feed almost exclusively on acorn mass during the winter. Old hunters invariably state that the deer population varies with the acorn drop. Moody finds that deer feed on acorns, but depend mostly upon browse for a livelihood.

"A deer feeds somewhat similar to a goat. He seldom stands still, covering many miles while browsing from one plant to another. They nip a green shoot here and a sprout there. Since they don't eat grass, and acorn crops often fail, my problem is to find out just what they eat and how much is needed to maintain the population and to keep it growing," Moody explains.

He finds that the deer of Louisiana subsist on acorns, green briars, Virginia Willow, French Mulberry, White Bay, Gum, and Maple. A random walk with Moody and Irby Knotts, Valley Electric co-op employee, confirmed his consensus. Every single one of these plants found had been nibbled on during the previous 24 hours by browsing deer herds.

Moody has more than a 100 acorn traps scattered over Louisiana's game preserves to determine the annual yields. A check of these traps showed that deer had also fed around each trap where acorns had fallen.

Acorn Counts

To show how far these educated wildlife men will go in practical experimentation, more about these drop traps must be mentioned. The experts have worked out a formula which gives exacting information as to how many acorns fall in a given area or from a particular tree. The screened traps are set up about three-feet from the ground at a geometrical angle from the top of the tree. Counting the contents of the traps each week, the wildlife scientist can tell with fair accuracy the yield of a particular tree or area.

This is extremely important since most animals and many birds depend upon acorns as a winter food supply. Checking those 100 traps scattered over the state is a big job within itself.

Turkey pose special problems. Moody and Beasley seem to doubt that Louisiana can ever support the huge flocks of old. Moody's incomplete study shows they feed chiefly on mulberry, acorns, grass seed, insects and blackberry. Like deer, turkeys are never still while feeding. Incidentally, Moody says they can run as fast as some horses.



This "wolf cave" is being examined by Moody and Knotts. Evidence indicates that only one lone wolf now calls Red Dirt home, a result of the intensive predator control exercised on the area.

The Moody family lives on the preserve which is about 30 miles from a town or village of any size. They say that visitors seem to expect to find them roughing it in a somewhat primitive style. Imagine their surprise when they find a neat little home with every modern convenience one can think of, except a telephone.

Mrs. Moody cooks on an electric range. "Wouldn't take anything for it," she says. They have a home water system, home freezer, refrigerator and numerous other appliances.

Attractive Mrs. Moody, just back from Germany with her husband, is a graduate home economist and a splendid cook. She says that one can live most anywhere in comfort—"If they have rural electricity."

Yes, there is a new breed of woodsmen on the Louisiana scene. Loyal and dedicated to restoring the state's natural gifts, they are making progress. A short while ago there weren't any deer on Red Dirt . . . only 300 four years ago. Now, there are a 1,000 and some have been shipped out to restock other preserves. A similar story is being duplicated throughout the state's 11 preserves.

—REA News

Educational-Publicist Available for Youth Meetings

Junior wildlife groups, 4-H clubs, schools, scouting organizations and other youth groups are being offered films and lectures at no cost through the Division of Education & Publicity of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

Charles D. Phillips, Jr., newly appointed education-publicist of the division, will visit any interested youth organization in Louisiana to show movies and make lectures on any phase of wildlife or natural resources of the state.

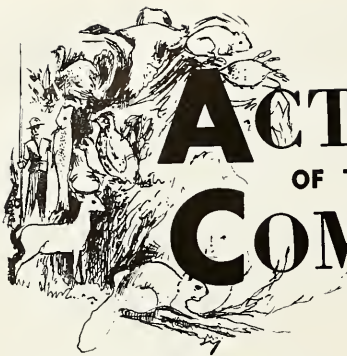
The Film library includes more than 50 films, many of them in color, designed for education in conservation. Films may be borrowed for showing by any group with or without the services of the education-publicist.

The library includes such movies as: "Fur Animals of Louisiana," "How Nature Protects Animals," "Conservation of Natural Resources," "Quail Hunting," "ABC of Forestry," "Gray Squirrel," "The White Pelican," "Nature's Songsters," "The Living Flower," "Common Animals of the Woods," "Reptiles," "Battling Bass," "Blue Geese" and many others.

Groups desiring films or lectures are asked to write or call the Division of Education and Publicity of the Commission, 126 Civil Courts Building, New Orleans 16, Louisiana.



Research such as is being conducted on the Red Dirt, together with the trapping and transplanting efforts depicted elsewhere in this issue, will insure that deer hunting scenes such as this continue to be a part of the Louisiana out-of-doors. Shown on the second day of the deer season are (left to right) B. Linden, L. Bordes, E. Casteix, W. Borden, P. Linden, A. Roulet, J. Luberville, D. Lecoroux, E. Puduer, E. Bordes, Bill Yrle, and C. Booth.



ACTION OF THE COMMISSION

JANUARY 2, 1953 MEETING

"The governor has appointed us and we have assumed the responsibility of conducting the administration of this department in such a manner that will restore the confidence of our people and show to all the world a department managed and operated by competent full-time employees; all of whom must have not only the qualifications to do all of his or her particular work, but must have the respect of those with whom they come in contact in the performance of their duties.

"Louisiana, as you all know, has vast resources. Intelligently managed, the wildlife and commercial resources of this state can and should be administered for the benefit of all the people of the state. It is our responsibility to make the policies and programs, to approve the mechanics of operation, the selection of all personnel, the wage scale and the budget for the entire department," A. C. Glassell of Shreveport, Commission chairman, said in his opening statement to the seven-member body and visitors.

Pollution problems were outlined to the commission in a report submitted by Frank J. Coogan, chief, Division of Research and Statistics, and included waste discharges into Calcasieu River and Pearl River, Grant Bayou, Little River, and the Lake Charles area.

Aims of the Division of Fur and Refuge were offered in a report from A. P. Daspt, division chief, as follows: 1. Increase division's biological laboratory. 2. Complete as nearly as possible long range plans for improvement of Rockefeller Refuge to its maximum capacity for wildlife utilization. 3. Hire another biologist for work in marshes. 4. Attempt to build another pool on Rockefeller Refuge to improve waterfowl utilization. 5. Construct two permanent cottages. . . . 6. Conduct food studies on migratory waterfowl. 7. Attempt to evaluate oil activities in relation to migratory and native waterfowl species. 8. Evaluate duck food plantings on the Louisiana refuge areas. 9. Install radio communication between all marsh refuges and division office. 10. Conduct parasitological studies on

Louisiana fur bearers. 11. Investigate correlation between muskrat decline and weather conditions of the past. 12. Evaluate use of nutria in upland fishing streams and lakes as clearers of unwanted vegetation. 13. Collect all data available on nutria from their natural habitat in South America. 14. Collect data on sales of foreign nutria in U. S. . . . 15. Continue studies of fur primeness as a foundation for establishing trapping seasons. 16. Evaluate predation of various species on wildlife found on refuges. 17. Set up cooperative study program with the Oyster and Water Bottom Division on oysters on Rockefeller Refuge.

Following a discussion of leasing land for cattle grazing, the commission voted to have the attorney and biologist make a study of the leases and report at the next meeting.

Major James Brown, chief, Division of Fish and Game, in his report, proposed the reorganization of the program for the eradication of water hyacinth and alligator grass and outlined a budget desired by his division.

James N. McConnell, chief, Division of Oysters and Water Bottoms, listed as the chief function of the division the insurance of productivity of the oyster bottoms of the state. In general, future plans are, in part: Observation of oyster growing areas throughout the Louisiana growing regions; leasing of bedding grounds to private individuals and corporations for their use in oyster production; collection of rentals, licenses, privilege tax and royalties; enforcement of regulations governing seismic operations; regulate taking of sand, shells and gravel from water bottoms; continuation of program of shell planting and re-bedding of oysters.

Since December 11, according to a paper submitted by V. E. Smith, chief, Division of Law Enforcement, 209 persons had been arrested for violation of fish and game laws, 24 for violation of seafood laws and 65,730 pounds of illegal shrimp and 850 pounds of illegal fish were confiscated.

Salaries, as recommended by the enforcement chief, were listed as: Ranger, \$250

The newly appointed governing body for Louisiana game and fish, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, held their first business meeting in New Orleans on January 2. Their second meeting was held on January 16. These meetings are held in the wildlife museum on Chartres Street, and they are open to the public. You are invited to attend and see this policy making group in action. The provisions of Amendment Number 9, which created the Commission, specify that the board must meet at least once each month. The last Tuesday of each month has been selected as the meeting date, thus the next one will occur on February 24.

We present here a resume of the events which took place at the first two meetings. In order that you may keep informed as to the actions of your Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, we request that you turn to this section of each issue for a review of the board's activities during the preceding month.



Six members of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission at their second meeting, held at the State Wild Life Museum on January 2, 1953. Seated (left to right) are: J. J. Besson, vice-chairman; A. C. Glassell, chairman, and George A. Foster. Standing (left to right) O. A. Lahaye, C. H. Brookshire and J. W. Doxey.

per month; captain, \$300; major, \$350; pilot, \$425; boat captain, \$250, and mechanics and cooks, \$200.

The addition of an assistant chief, a lecturer to work in schools of the state and a clerk-typist were recommendations given the Commission by Mel Washburn, chief, Division of Education and Publicity. He listed two books, "Fishes and Fishing in Louisiana" and "Fur Bearing Animals of Louisiana," as incomplete and asked for the continuation of the printing of the two.

L. D. Young, Jr., Director of the Commission, submitted recommendations for the Division of Administration which were voted upon at the time presented.

Warren Simon, New Orleans, was employed as attorney for the Commission, replacing Charles Lange who resigned.

Robert L. Eddy was named chief, Division of Commercial Seafoods. Mr. Eddy is a resident of New Orleans.

Director Young called the commission's attention to the gift of a boat, Times Picayune IV, donated by Willis G. Wilmot, A. Miles Pratt, George F. Glover and William H. McNulty. Present value of the boat was estimated at \$35,000 to \$40,000.

Jerry J. Besson, Baton Rouge, asked for the passage of a resolution which applied to all rangers—that they must be 21 years

of age and not over 45; strictly temperate and of high moral character; reasonably intelligent and interested in wildlife; free of physical defects, with good vision and hearing; subject to physical examination; agree to transfer to any section of the state; devote full-time to ranger work with no other vocation. His recommendations were approved.

The Commission voted to keep Frank Cogan as chief, Division of Research and Statistics.

Ted O'Neil of Abbeville was selected as chief, Division of Fur and Refuge, replacing A. P. Daspit.

Major James Brown was retained as chief, Division of Fish and Game.

John Blanchard, Winnsboro, was named to replace Mel Washburn as chief, Division of Education and Publicity; Claude Gresham was selected as editor of the CONSERVATIONIST, and Charles D. Phillips, Jr., was appointed to handle the educational program of the division.

R. J. Goebel, Jr., chief accountant, was retained in his present position.

Dr. Ira Gabrielson, director of the Wildlife Management Institute, was invited to Louisiana to make a general survey and make recommendations to the board.

JANUARY 16, 1953 MEETING

(Aubin Buquet replaced by son, A. J. Buquet, as Commission member.)

Director Young read a report from the Division of Enforcement revealing that 124 arrests had been made during the first half of January as compared with 27 arrests made for the month of January 1952. A total of 307 arrests were made in the month of December.

A water hyacinth program, submitted by Major James Brown, chief, Division of Fish and Game, was approved by the commission. It includes, in part: Reorganization of the hyacinth and alligator grass program; hiring of a biologist to take care of the research work; replacement of equipment.

A lease permitting the grazing of cattle on Pass-a-Loutre Refuge was given approval by the seven-member body to Eddie Hingle of Arabi for \$325 annually.

The raccoon was declared an outlaw and the regulations governing the hunting of same were approved by the Commission as follows: The 'coon is declared an outlaw animal and it will be permissible for hunters to use lights and dogs in seeking them at night, but that no firearms shall be possessed while hunting, killing or taking of raccoons, whether the hunting be done at night or during daylight hours. In

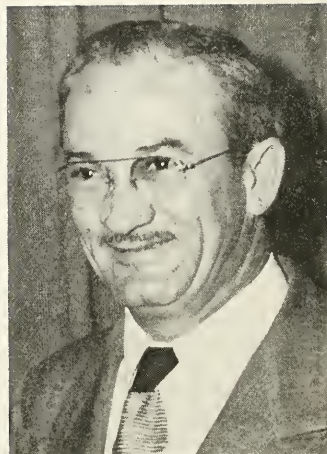
the parishes where the police juries deem it inadvisable to allow night hunting, they are requested to adopt the proper resolution or ordinance prohibiting the hunting of raccoons at night with lights and dogs.

Leslie Walters, biologist, was named to replace James N. McConnell as chief of the Division of Oysters and Water Bottoms.

In the Division of Publicity and Education, the commission approved the recommendations made by Director Young at the January 2 meeting and outlined Mr. Washburn's duties, which include the handling of radio, TV, public relations and publication of the two incomplete books—"Fishes and Fishing in Louisiana" and "Fur Bearing Animals of Louisiana."

Meeting date of the commission was changed to the fourth Tuesday of each month, effective February 24.

Director Young was appointed as a member of the Stream Control Commission to represent the seven-man group.



A. J. BUQUET

A. J. Buquet, of Houma, named to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries commission to succeed his father, Aubin Buquet, original appointee of Governor Robert F. Kennon, but whom illness prevented from serving.

the fish, crabs and other "trash" with the aid of small wooden hand rakes. This, for the most part, was thrown overboard. If the catch was of considerable volume, this process required some time.

Although ice boats followed some of the shrimping vessels, most shrimp in those days were taken to drying platforms. With the advent of the gasoline engine, shrimp were more quickly located and more extensive was the territory covered. The shrimp industry now began to grow by leaps and bounds. With better icing methods and quicker transportation, many canning factories were established.

With the food shortage caused by the war, there was a decrease in wasteful and destructive practices. Fish and crabs of marketable size were now disposed of at a profit. It was still impossible to rescue the millions of young fish caught in the seines, and the majority seemed destined to die anyhow, probably because of secretions given off by the shrimp.

During 1917, a new method of catching shrimp was licensed in Louisiana, the shrimp trawl, a netting device which is dragged over the bottom behind a gasoline boat. It consists of a large bag with short wings attached to weighted boards on either side. The boards are tied to the boat with long ropes and are bridled in such a manner that the device is kept at the bottom and opened to its fullest extent while operating.

From a comparative study, it was found that with trawls the average catch per man per day was much greater than with seines, bringing greater revenue to the fishermen.

⁴ World War I.

This proved to be a blessing during the war when the shortage of labor was acute, as one or two men could take the place of 15 or 20.

With the trawl, waste of the better classes of food fishes has become negligible as the trawl operates away from the shores and seldom catches an appreciable amount of such fishes. Furthermore, before the advent of the trawl, the lobster shrimp was almost unknown as a commercial proposition, as they seldom came within seining distance of the seashore. During the past three years, with the advent of the trawl, there has been opened up a vast new shrimping ground where a bounteous supply of jumbo shrimp exists the year round, with great possibilities for the future of the shrimp industry.

In conclusion I might repeat that the Department of Conservation is making a thorough investigation of the shrimping industry with a view of correcting wasteful practices. The time is approaching when the shrimp industry will expand as it has never done before, yet in such a way that a maximum yield will be produced annually without danger of depletion.

While conducting this investigation, it was gratifying to note the increasing cooperation of the fishermen, firms and corporations connected with the shrimp industries. These folks have come to realize the value of scientific research and it is indeed a hopeful sign that the public is placing greater reliance on the recommendations of biologists in the handling of shrimp and other fisheries problems.

GET YOUR 1953 FISHING LICENSE NOW

Commercial Seafood Division on the Air

The Commercial Seafoods Division of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission is now presenting a weekly radio program over WRCM and WJMR, New Orleans. "Fish Tales" will be heard each Thursday afternoon from 5:15 to 5:30, and is designed to acquaint the listener with the commercial aspects of our bountiful aquatic resources, and with the many interesting facts about aquatic life in general. Lee Eddy, Jr., Chief of the Division, and Percy Viosca, Jr., who is in charge of the Division's research program, will be in charge of the program.

Shrimp . . .

Continued from page 5

It is significant that, in spite of the immense amount of material examined, no shrimp between two and one-half and five inches long could be obtained during the month of May. From May on, we have two broods to follow, the minimum sized individuals of the old crop and the maximum sized individuals of the new crop.

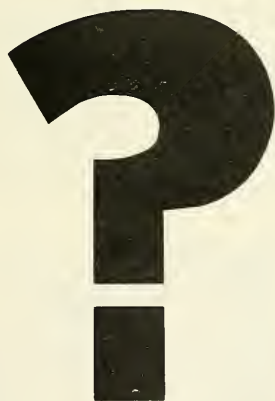
By June, all shrimp of the old brood from the preceding year attain the adult form at a size of six inches and move out into the Gulf. Thus, during early summer, it is impossible to obtain commercial sizes of this species in inside waters. The new crop, as yet confined to shallow water near the coast, is too small to be taken by commercial fishing gear.

Adult sea shrimp are called "lobster shrimp," and these remain at sea for the rest of their natural lives. At times they may approach the shores, but rarely enter even the more saline larger passes. Lobster shrimp can be found in the Gulf at all seasons of the year, where adults of eight inches and over are not uncommon.

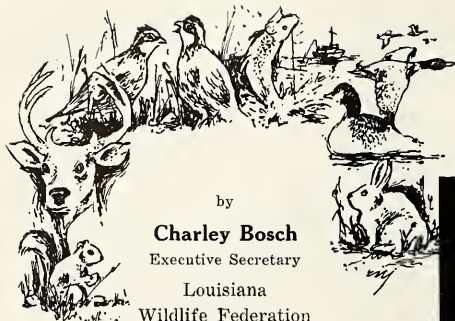
In the early days of the industry, shrimp were taken largely by means of seines, a profitable method because of their gregarious habits. Large seines, some as much as 2,000 feet and with crews of 20 men, were a common sight. The crews went out in large row boats equipped with sails in the event of favorable winds. They searched the bottoms of the lakes and bays, locating the shrimp by means of small cast nets, called sounding nets. When a school was located, its size and extent were determined with the sounding net before the seine was laid out. Sometimes the entire school would be surrounded and taken, only a negligible per cent escaping.

The shrimp were dumped in the bottom of the boat with the aid of scoop nets and then began the laborious process of cleaning them. This was done by pulling aside

Speak your piece



What's on your mind? This space is being reserved for your opinions on any matters pertaining to the out-of-doors. If you have any comments or questions on activities of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, let us hear them. If they're questions, we'll do our best to find the answers. This is your chance to "get it off your chest". Send your letter to Editor, LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST, 126 Civil Courts Building, New Orleans.



with the FEDERATION

FEDERATION TO CONVENE

The 56 affiliated clubs of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Inc. are completing final arrangements for attending the annual convention of the state organization to be held in the Evangeline Hotel, Lafayette, La. on March 6, 7, 8, 1953. The annual banquet will be held at noon on March 8th.

J. J. Besson, President of the Federation, has been urging all affiliated clubs to select delegates and complete business prior to the meeting. Delegates should also be instructed as to their support of constructive measures to be brought before the assembly.

C. E. "Cap" Barham, Lt.-Governor of the State of Louisiana and A. C. "Pops" Glassell, Chairman, Louisiana Wild Life & Fisheries Commission have been invited as featured speakers for the Convention.

All hunting and fishing clubs, conservation clubs, sportsmen's organizations, deer and duck clubs, etc. not affiliated with the Federation that desire to become member clubs are urged to write the Federation Office, 4916 Frey St., Baton Rouge, La., for complete details and information.

The Caldwell Parish Fish and Game Association re-elected Charlie Sturdivant to the Office of President at a meeting held February 3rd. Mr. Sturdivant a resident of Columbia, the domicile of the Association, is now serving his fourth term as Presy. J. E. McDaniel of Kelly, La. was elected Vice President. James H. Roberts was elected Secretary and Marvin Lively re-elected as Treasurer. The newly elected Members of the Board of Directors of the La. Wildlife Federation, Inc. are: Ted L. Johnson, Guy H. Alford, and Tom Watts. The next meeting of the Association will be March 3 at 7:30 P. M. in the Caldwell Parish Community Center.

VERMILION PARISH

Walter F. Bernard, was re-elected President of the Vermilion Parish Rod and Gun Club. Although the organization is not yet two years old its membership is almost 600. Other officers elected and pledged to

build the Club bigger and stronger are: Roland LeBlanc, 1st Vice-President; Albert Taylor, 2nd Vice-President; and E. J. Morvant, Treasurer. Francis H. Hollier will serve in the important office of Secretary. G. E. Summers, Alcide L. Lene, Raywood Libersat and the five officers previously listed comprise the Board of Directors of the Club. Selected as delegates to attend the annual Convention of the Federation in Lafayette on March 6-8 were President Bernard (voting delegate), Dudley J. LeBlanc, Jr., Marc Gosselin, Whitney Hartman, Dewey Mouton. The club met in the Abbeville elementary school gymnasium on South Washington St. which is the usual meeting place with meetings held regularly the first Monday of each month. All persons in Vermilion Parish interested in the preservation and propagation of wildlife and fisheries are invited and urged to attend.



Harry Rodgers and Joe Pate, Bastrop, with a string of bass taken from Lake St. John.

ST. CHARLES PARISH

The Duck Section of the Bonnet Carre Rod and Gun Club of Norco, La. made known recently the number and species bagged on the Section's shooting grounds. This information was forwarded to Major James Brown, Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, the Federation, and Ducks Unlimited. As usual Lesser Scaup (Dos Gris) furnished the bulk of the sport with Mallards and Pintail more abundant than in many years. Many species appeared in the records including Canvasback, Ring Neck, Wood Duck, Red Head, Gadwall, Baldpate, both species of Teal and the rare Surf Scoter. Even the lowly Shoveller and Merganser were harvested when the more desirable species were scarce. Two handed ducks were bagged and the bands reported to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

SAINT LANDRY PARISH

The Opelousas Wildlife Association at a recent meeting elected Dr. Louis E. Stelly as President of the Association for the coming year. Dr. Stelly is a past President of the Opelousas Club and a past Vice-President of the Federation. The office of Vice-President went to A. J. Bertinot, and Kenneth Durio was elected as Secretary-Treasurer. The following committees were appointed: LEGAL, Ed. Burleigh, Felix Dejean, Vincent Moseley, and Edward Pavy; ENTERTAINMENT, Louis Siegel, Shelton Lafleur, Dave Sanders, Lloyd Andrus, Percy Durio, and Kenneth Durio; MEMBERSHIP, Miss Irine Shute (for women members) and Edmond Dupre (for male members) were appointed chairmen with the authority to select their own committee. Tony Bertinot was appointed chairman of the FINANCE committee with authority to complete the committee himself. The club selected Dr. Stelly, E. E. Pavy, and Lloyd Andrus as members of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Inc. Four members of the club have received commissions as special agents from the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to assist in enforcing the game and

fish laws. The special agents commissions were issued to William J. Johnson, Jr., retiring President; Bill Younce, Earl Acker, and Dr. Stelly. Local Directors are Dr. Stelly, E. E. Pavy, T. T. Ortego, A. J. Bertinot, E. D. Bruner, Guy Savage, Mrs. E. H. Dillion, Miss Irine Shute, Etienne Daigle, J. L. Herbert, and Louis Siegel. Several guests were present for the supper meeting which was held in the W.O.W. Hall.

BEAUREGARD PARISH

A meeting of the Beauregard Wildlife Conservation Club was held last week at the War Memorial Civic Center in DeRidder with L. B. Griffin, Sr., presiding. Many phases and actions of the newly created Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission were discussed. Also discussed by the group were the qualifications for game rangers (formerly called game wardens). The next meeting of the Club will be held on February 23rd at which time officers for the coming year will be elected and plans made for programs for the year. A. J. Weick, Secretary announced that requests will be made to the Commission to restock streams and lakes in the area. All members, and others interested in game, fish and wildlife are urged to attend the meeting on February 23 which will be held in the W.M.C.C.

WINN PARISH

W. P. Spillers was re-elected President of the Winn Parish Sportsmen's Club at the regular meeting Wednesday night. Other officers elected are Eugene F. Love, Vice-President; J. J. Tarver, Secretary-Treasurer; and Earl Hambleton, publicity chairman. In his acceptance speech President Spillers asked the cooperation of all citizens, not just club members, as the Sportsmen's Club is dedicated to the con-



Sloan McCloskey, of Hammond, with a limit kill of woodcock taken near Hammond on January 11. Although hunting the timberdoodles has always been a one of the foremost sports of northern gunners, Louisiana hunters have only recently begun to take advantage of the Pelican state woodcock concentrations—legally, that is.

servation of all our natural resources: soils, forests, waters, minerals, and fish and game. Mr. Spillers also requested all members to attend regularly the monthly meetings which are held the first Wednesday at 7:30 P. M. in the City Hall.

ORLEANS PARISH

At a recent meeting of the New Orleans Sportsmen's League a resolution was adopted urging that "commercial fishing as well as trawling and the use of any type of nets except crab and cast nets" be banned in Lake Pontchartrain by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. A committee representing the St. Tammany Wildlife Club attended the New Orleans' meeting "joined heartily in the movement as an aid to the rehabilitation of the lake as a famous fishing area", reported Arthur Van Pelt, editor of the popular OUTDOORS SOUTH column.

Mr. Van Pelt further stated "In a series of talks, members of the groups present pointed out that parishes surrounding Lake Pontchartrain have a total population of nearly a million persons with thousands visiting the lake each week to enjoy the fishing, crabbing and kindred outdoor sports within easy reach of their homes and that the servicing of these sport fishermen and their families with motors, motor fuel, boats, bait, and food constitutes a business perhaps fifty times as commercially important as is the total income derived from the lake by the few who operate trawls and seines commercially."

"The use of trawls and seines, it was declared is destructive to water bottoms and marine vegetation which are the spawning

grounds for many kinds of game fish and which shelter small fish and shrimp," Van Pelt reported.

Mr. Lucien Fourcade, President of the New Orleans League was present at the last meeting of the Commission when commercial interests requested more liberal regulations. Fourcade, speaking at that time stated that he thought the issue should be thoroughly investigated by trained biologists who should make public their recommendations.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH

The members of the Baton Rouge Sportsmen's League formed plans for the coming fishing rodeo to be held Saturday and Sunday, May 2 and 3, 1953. The event this year will be limited to the Big Horseshoe which is False River near New Roads, La. There will be four weighing stations located at the Tropical Gardens, the Light-house, David & Olinde and the Island Queen. There was quite a bit of discussion over some of the proposed contest rules which will be announced at a later date. Herman Truxillo, President of the League announced that a diligent membership drive will be conducted in an effort to top the membership mark of 1,142 set in 1951 under the leadership of J. J. Besson. One of the requirements for entry in the contest is that the person must be a member in good standing of the League, so you can bet that with this mild weather the rabid fisherman will be visiting one of the local sporting goods stores and asking for a membership card for the Baton Rouge League, to be sure he has his card.

Join your fellow sportsmen at the Lafayette convention. Make your reservation NOW!



One of the 26 redfish caught in Grand Lake by Mrs. Chas. Perrin, Sr., Marrero, Louisiana. These fish ranged from 3 to 10 pounds



Adam's Buck, Labrador owned by H. A. Adam, of Grand Isle, presents mallard for the boss.

What they're Saying!

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Editorial, New Orleans States: From the way Director L. D. Young of the state department of wildlife and fisheries has been shaking up the enforcement division, the people can expect a much better deal in that field. He has dismissed about 80 men, mostly game wardens, since taking over on Dec. 10, he reports. He insists all these have been inefficient, and either wouldn't or couldn't devote full time to the work. . . . It is . . . an old story that virtually every new crew taking over conservation enforcement in the last 30 or 40 years, sooner or later fell into the habit of showing favors to those with political influence, and of winking at violations. . . . We sincerely hope that Director Young's administration will be the shining exception.

* * * * *

DELBERT OLIVER, Lafayette Advertiser: Rangers reported a total of 76 arrests, 30 of which were filed with the federal authorities. . . . Violations included hunting without licenses, hunting squirrels in closed season, night hunting, possession of squirrels out of season, trapping with no license, possessing undersize fish, hunting rabbits with headlights at night, hunting deer with unplugged gun, trespassing on a game refuge, selling game fish, selling rabbits, killing a fawn deer, and selling commercial fish without proper license. Several hunters have been fined for killing coons, either at night or during the day—a practice which many Louisiana residents have long regarded as legal.

* * * * *

PAUL MARTIN, Monroe Morning World: We recognize the fact that the new body has a big task ahead of it. Mr. Clements also had a big job to perform. But we can't see the new system performing any better than the old unless it has the proper funds appropriated. We understand the appropriation for wildlife in the state has been reduced since last year, so that the commission has less money to work with

than Mr. Clements had. It takes money for enforcement, restocking, enforcement, game preserve building, enforcement, incidental expenses, and enforcement.

* * * * *

ON THE WATERFRONT, Morgan City Review: Representatives of Fox Movietone News were in town last week to film interesting local features. With the cooperation of the Twin City Fishermen's Cooperative Ass'n, Inc., the photographers got shots of the unloading of shrimp from a trawler . . . and all of the processes—washing, sorting, heading, weighing, icing and packing—in which fresh-frozen jumbo shrimp are prepared for the market.

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VAL FLANAGAN, New Orleans Times-Picayune: Freshwater catfish are important to commercial fisheries. During the last fiscal year 6,999,231 pounds were taken which sold for 23 cents a pound, placing the monetary value of the catfish market well over a million and a half dollars. Even though most bass fishermen do not consider catfishing a sport, many will defend the cat's type of battle. He does not make powerful dashes or break the surface of the water when he feels the hook, but dives for deep water, exerting steady pressure on the line with his pulling and rolling tactics.

* * * * *

SHREVEPORT Times: Shreveport's city council overrode strong protests from boat landing operators and sportsmen yesterday in approving unanimously a two-month closed season on Cross lake fishing. . . . Two organizations put themselves on record as opposed to the move. The two are the Cross Lake Boat Landing Operators Association, which was represented yesterday by Luther Montgomery, former state wildlife and fisheries commissioner, and the board of directors of the Caddo Wildlife Federation. . . . Montgomery quoted from a state biologist's survey that stated, "I don't believe a closed season on game fish is desirable or useful to the sportsmen. . . . The ordinance adopted on first reading yes-

terday calls for a ban on fishing during the spring spawning season, March 2 through May 8. Not affected will be the holder of the exclusive commercial fishing permit for catching buffalo, gar and turtles.

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PAUL KALMAN, New Orleans Item: With due regard to Smitty and his men who are doing a bang-up job, we believe he and they would be a lots happier if better cooperation could be obtained from the local judges and justices of the peace before whom the violators are brought for trial. For example, violations involving the jack-lighting of deer and the shooting of does is bringing an average fine of less than \$20. This is particularly evident in South Louisiana where, in a number of cases, the family name of the judge was the same as that of the violator. . . . We can be mighty proud of our diligent game wardens but until country justice changes from the way we are now seeing it, they are working against a severe and overwhelming handicap.

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EDITORIAL, The Caldwell Watchmen, Columbia: The board-form of government, which the opposition said could not work, was inaugurated in order that "politics be kept out of government"—out of the wildlife and fisheries, institutions, highway, and welfare. Theoretically speaking, this type government is the most democratic form known, according to a lot of people, but in Louisiana the task of making "non-political" boards work will be ten-fold. But it seems that the majority of the people of the State are going along with the boards, now that they are in, and seem to be pleased with his selection of the wildlife group, in that it included men who are familiar with every phase of the department, commercial and sport. . . . We'd like to see him (Young) tighten the law enforcement division, and in hiring and firing of his men, think he should by all means avoid the smart-aleck kind of game wardens whose approach is bad, and who are looking out to make a few arrests now to make or acquire a name to hold his job.

BOB SCEARCE, Baton Rouge *Morning Advocate*: This business of coon hunting has been smouldering for a long time among the Louisiana sportsmen who like to take their dogs out and make a good coon hunt. Raccoon, or 'coon as we have come to call them, at one time were a right proud part of the fur bearing group, but of late have come to be a sort of an outcast. This is for two or three reasons. The importation of fine foreign skins has put the coon at the bottom of the list—the sunlight has put a reddish cast to our marsh coon which the buyers simply can't take because they can't sell them—and our coon has become a predator, eating up nearly any and all crops he can find. . . . So the Commission declared the coon a predator and issued a resolution saying that as far as they were concerned the coon could be hunted at night with a light and dogs, but not with a gun. In other words, from right now on, you can go out into the woods with your dogs and a headlight and tree your coon, shake the tree . . . but you may not shoot him.

PINEVILLE *News*, Editorial: Credit must be given to the Department of Wildlife for the convictions they are getting, as the releases show very few being let go for lack of evidence. These violations are occurring in practically all parishes of the state. All sportsmen in the state are happy to see these raids on the game stopped, and the raiders punished, by the due process of law. There is no doubt but what the violators are being given the proper sentence under the existing laws of the state. . . . BUT is the law tough enough on these persons? These violators are a small minority of the large army of the large army of sportsmen who like to hunt, and desire to have game to hunt and fish in the coming days ahead. These violators are making it difficult for the clean sportsman to enjoy the fruits of our natural heritage. The fines in ranging from \$12.50 up, are not stiff enough penalty. What does a small fine mean to a person of means, or the man who will make it back on his next sale of game fish or game? They have had their sport and can well afford to pay this small fine, BUT—if that violator knew that if he were caught violating the law, that he would get a 30-day jail sentence, he may think about it beforehand.

OPELOUSAS *Daily World*, Mug Wump: IF GAME RANGERS FOLLOW THROUGH, fishermen caught after Saturday (Jan. 31) while rod-and-reeling without a state angling license are going to have to say Good Morning, Your Honor, to some judge. And, knowing the enforcement record of V. E. Smith, new chief of the game law enforcement division, it's a safe bet that rangers will be a-checking. Several warnings have been issued by the wildlife department that after Jan. 31 all anglers must have licenses, and that there will positively be no "extensions." We

published articles from them to this effect last December and several times during this month. Chief Tax Collector Herbert Fontenot reports quite heavy sales in fishing licenses, but is sure that many, many an angler is still without one. And that deadline is Saturday (Jan. 31). (Ed. note: We believe the rangers are following through, as witnessed by the more than 80 convictions for the week ending Feb. 8, most for no fishing licenses.

SHREVEPORT *Times*: Editorial—The city council has enacted an ordinance to close Cross Lake to public fishing during the spawning season—for some two months from March 2 to May 8. The *Times* believes the step is a justified one, experimentally. We pretend to no expertise in such matters, however. Our own fishing on Cross Lake has won no prizes. Once upon a time a small buffalo fish attached itself to our hook while we dozed and refused to get off. We had to catch him. We recall no other Cross Lake success.

Both the city authorities and the wildlife federation agree that something has been wrong with Cross Lake fishing for a long time and little if anything has been done about it. The council has decided on at least one step and the mere fact that it has aroused itself from past inertia is good. The wildlife people pledge their co-operation, even while disagreeing with the council, and that also is commendable. If the council has been inert in this matter, certainly its present critics have not been overly active in any effective way.

As for closed seasons, we simply await results of the experiment.

COLUMBIA: *The Caldwell Watchmen*—Editorial: The seemingly unnecessary procrastination on the part of the Wild Life and Fisheries department in appointing the necessary game wardens needed is beyond all doubts jeopardizing our wild life program here in Caldwell parish.

This is indeed regrettable as the program, especially deer and turkey, have gone a long way in putting the parish back in the front row as a game paradise. But instead, with the woeful lack of law enforcement from lack of game wardens, the parish is becoming a hunter's paradise, even out of season. The other day one parish resident brought to this office a head of a doe, which had been severed from the body, and thrown over in his front yard. The skull from all appearance had been crushed by a blunt instrument. This is very possible as the deer here are very tame, and one can easily get up close enough to touch them—even tap one on the head with a hammer.

Here in Caldwell parish planting of deer has been going alone as good as could be expected, and we are now getting a fair start. But they are being placed in most

cases in a section where they have practically no protection against hunters taking a pop at them, and taking home some venison. Over in Tensas and other parishes where the deer are plentiful, drive through that section . . . invariably you will be stopped by cops wanting to see your driver's license, but you are "checked" just in case you might accidentally have a doe in your car. That's very good.

ARTHUR VAN PELT, New Orleans *Times-Picayune*: Fame of Louisiana's ivory scaled, hard fighting alligator gar as a game fish has spread far and wide owing largely to numerous articles appearing in sportsmen's magazines on the subject of their fishing. Now anglers from the northern states are coming to Louisiana to get first hand experience with the big fish in their native habitat.

Latest visitor to ask for "where-to-go" information in order to engage the iron-lad monsters is Emil "One Cast" Doering, of Chicago, veteran angler of the Michigan and Wisconsin lakes, who will spend the next week or 10 days in the Manchac and Barataria area, seeking sport with the gars, of which both localities now have far more than they need.

Yes, you DO need a fishing license if you use an artificial lure, whether on a cane pole or rod and reel.



C. C. Lary, of Houghton, Louisiana, proudly poses with his first deer. This exceptionally nice 8 pointer was taken on Dec. 20 in Tensas Parish.

To a Young Fisherman

*Did you ever take your kid out fishing
And watch closely as he sits there wishing
For the big one that he's often dreamed
about,*

*Be it catfish, panfish, bass or trout?
Did you notice his tenseness as he felt the
tug,
His scream of delight? He's got the bug.
He is a fisherman.*

*Did you hear him then as he described his
catch?*

*Was there ever a fish that could possibly
match*

*The size and beauty of the one he caught?
And his expression; it could never be
bought.*

*Well, you asked for it, brother, you have
what you sought.*

He's a fisherman.

*Did you ever awake in the early dawn,
Watch him bounce out of bed with scarcely
a yawn,*

*See the excitement shining there on his
face?*

This is a memory time can never erase.

*'Tis a wonderful moment, we head into
space.*

Going Fishing.

*Yeah, he's a pretty good pal though he's
only a boy,*

*For now a rod and reel has replaced every
toy.*

*He has entered a new world of happiness
and joy.*

He's a fisherman; God bless him.

He's your Boy!

—From Florida Wildlife

Fence Out Predators? It Takes Some Doing

Purdue university has found that various predatory animals can squeeze through remarkably small openings.

Tests on this point were conducted in the university's wildlife laboratory, since poultrymen wanted to know what kind of wire they should use in building summer range shelters.

The smallest circular holes that could be entered by various species proved to be as follows:

Weasel (7 oz.)—1 inch.

Opossum (4½ lb.)—2¾ inch.

Skunk (3 lbs.)—3 inch.

Gray fox (7½ lbs.)—3 5/16 inch.

Red fox (8 lb.)—3¾ inch.

Raccoon (10 lb.)—3½ inch.

Tests with rectangular holes gave comparable results, but as would be expected, openings that are even slightly smaller in one direction. Included in these trials was a mink of 2 1/10 lb.; he went through a 2 x 2½ inch hole.

Contrary to common belief, the predators were not necessarily able to get by any hole they could get their heads through. Given too-small holes, most of them were hung up by their shoulders, and

National Wildlife Week, originally established by Presidential proclamation in 1938 by President Roosevelt, will be observed this year during the week of March 15-21, under the sponsorship of the National Wildlife Federation and its state affiliate. It is expected that Governor Robert F. Kennon will issue a proclamation urging general observance of this special week.

National Wildlife Week aims to focus the attention of the American public on the importance of our natural resources and on the broad and pressing problems of conservation. State, county and local group meetings throughout the nation will direct public discussions of wildlife conservation through intelligent management of America's natural resources, including water, soil, trees and all other plant as well as animal life. Conservation-minded and public-spirited organizations participating will include sportsmen's organizations, garden and nature clubs, and other adult and school groups. The state sponsor for Louisiana is the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Inc., and Charles W. Bosch, Jr., has been named state chairman. The National Chairman is Ed Dodd of Atlanta, Georgia who is the creator of "Mark Trail".

some by their hindquarters. A raccoon was able to reach 19 inches through a hole he couldn't quite pass.

Purdue researchers point out that the kind of wire needed to turn back predators will depend on what species are present in the area.

If weasel and mink are on the prowl the mesh will have to be very small. Hardware cloth with ½ inch mesh is suggested.

For other species a wire fabric of 1 x 2 inch mesh, in 14 or 16 gauge, appears desirable.

The Purdue authorities appear to believe that a burglary-bent raccoon might be able to wreck hardware cloth. They say that anyone who wants to use commonly-available materials is making a "weasel-tight and raccoon-strong" barrier had better use both hardware cloth and stout 1 x 2 wire mesh, laying one over the other.

—From Wisconsin Conservation Bulletin.

THE REAL SPORTSMAN

To brag a little, to lose well,

To crouch gently if in luck.

To pay up, to own up,

To shut up if beaten,

Are the virtues of a sportsman.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

An owl cannot move its eyes in their sockets but compensates by being able to rotate its head in a big arc of 273 degrees.

Falcons strike their prey with closed talons, catching the dead or stunned victim in mid-air as it plummets earthward.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK TO BE OBSERVED

The distribution of Wildlife Conservation Stamps during the week and at other times is part of the National's education program. Proceeds from their sale are the organization's main source of income to carry on its programs. The 1953 Wildlife Week is dedicated to the restoration of the native American prairie chicken, or pinated grouse, which is rapidly becoming extinct. In 1952 a special fund was created to restore and protect the vanishing Key Deer as a result of National Wildlife Week.

Sportsmen's clubs, garden clubs, and civic groups can help promote Wildlife Week in the following ways:

1. Arrange conservation meetings with speakers or movies.

2. Arrange conservation programs for school assemblies.

3. Sponsor window displays built around the conservation theme.

4. Arrange radio interviews and commentary.

5. Secure news and editorial comment in local newspapers.

6. Sponsor educational tours of Game Sanctuaries, Hatcheries, etc.

7. Encourage the use and/or collecting of Conservation Stamps.

It Can Happen to You

A Wisconsin weekly newspaper published a front-page story headlined, "Editor Fined for License Violation."

The paper's editor-publisher was picked up in a routine check for fishing without a license.

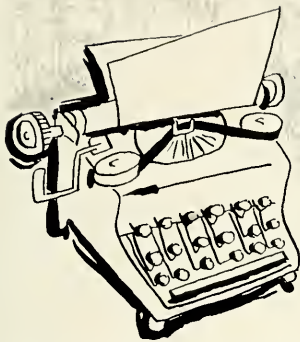
The warden in this case was the editor's good friend of 10 years' standing. That had no effect on his performance, but considerable on his feelings. The warden found the court proceedings "painful," according to the editor's sympathetic report. No doubt the newspaperman was unhappy, too, but he didn't complain.

Asked in court whether he had anything to say in his defense, the editor replied: "No. This experience will help remind me to get a license when the season opens, rather than wait until I expect to use it, and risk depending on my rotten memory later in the season."

—From Wisconsin Conservation Bulletin

A grumpy looking man boarded a train, called for a pillow, made himself comfortable and, just before closing his eyes for a nap, extracted a sizable sign from his brief case and propped it on his lap. It read:

"I don't trust Stalin; I hope we won't have another war; I think prices will start down in about a year, but that we won't have another depression. Wake me up at Baton Rouge."



do you rowling

research, law enforcement, commercial fisheries, or what have you. It's your chance to get it off your chest.

Happy New Year! Yeah, I know that it's February already, but the date on this issue says January, and Happy New Year it is. We're a couple of issues behind, and intend to catch up pronto, trying not to sacrifice quality for speed.

It's good to be back! As time permits we intend to get around to see all our friends the state over, but for the time being we'll just say "howdy" from this column. It's been a long time since we pulled a notched River Runt down the banks of Bayou Duquesne, or twitched a Lucky Thirteen among the stumps of Concordia—too long. And we learn that Courtableu and Duquesne have gone the way of many fine fishing spots, but that the Red River country has more than taken up the slack. This is to serve notice on "them green trout" that Gresham is back, to take up the feud broken off some two and a half years ago. A lot of casts and boot miles have gone under the bridge since then, from Tennessee to Texas, Arizona to Montana, and points in between and I got news for you. You never had it so good!

We're blessed right here in the Pelican State with the best fishing in the country, and Louisiana is POTENTIALLY one of the greatest game states of all. You are to be congratulated on the forward-looking step you recently took to place the management of your wildlife resources on a sound basis. Sporting people the country over say "well done."

* * * * *

The LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST is your magazine, and we invite your suggestions and criticisms at all times. If there's something about it you don't like, let us hear from you. If something particularly strikes your fancy, we'd like to know about that, too. We're going to save one page in each issue—more, if it becomes necessary—for your comments on just about anything in the wildlife field. If you've got a question that's been bothering you, whether it's about the bag limit on hummingbirds or how to talk your wife into lettin' you buy that new outboard, send it on in. We'll put the finger on the division chief in charge of that phase of our operation and come up with some kind of an answer. Let us know what you think about the operation of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission—

We've a few ideas of our own cookin' on the front burner, and we think you're going to like them. For instance, there will be a regular feature in each issue on the activities of the various locals of the Wildlife Federation. "With the Federation" makes its debut in this issue. The Federation executive secretary, Charley Bosch, will assemble material for this feature, so all club secretaries or publicity chairmen are urged to funnel reports on your activities to Charley. We want pictures in this too, so have the best photographer in your club on tap with his equipment at your next supper, rodeo, casting contest, etc.

We feel that the body of the magazine should be used to report to you, the public, on the work being carried out by your Commission. Lack of knowledge often leads to suspicion and misunderstanding, and that we don't want. We have some excellent men trying to find out the answers to more abundant game and fish, and you will be hearing of their work from time to time.

* * * * *

Interesting visitors over the past few days included Dr. Frank Ashbrook, Chief of the Wild Fur Animal Investigations of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I finally managed to keep him from hying away to his inner sanctum in Washington long enough to chat for a while. Commenting on the nutria-muskrat situation in our Pelican state, where the South American import is increasing by leaps and bounds, Ashbrook opined that there would be no nutria menace if fur prices were up, and that one of the foremost reasons for low prices at the trapper level are the high costs which the manufacturer of fur garments must contend with. He said that some people have expressed a belief that one solution lies in exporting pelts to Europe, where the cost of processing one nutria pelt to a stage ready for the cutting boards of the manufacturer is \$.60, as against \$1.50 here in the U. S.

Dr. Ashbrook also reported that Dr. Van T. Harris has replaced the late Dr. Herbert Dozier as Fish and Wildlife Service biologist stationed at S. L. I., Lafayette. Harris will continue to concentrate his work on the ecology and management of the nutria and muskrat, since there is a great need for more accurate information on the action of nutria under varying conditions.

C.H.G.

U. S. POSTAGE

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PERMIT No. 74

NEW ORLEANS, LA.



This beautiful photo by Edouard Morgan is presented for the duck hunters—something to drool over during the long months to come before waterfowl will be legal game again.